

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

By way of overview, claims 1-42 will be pending upon entry of this Response. Of these pending claims:

- a) Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 24 and 25 remain in their original form;
- b) Claims 28, 32, 36 and 37 were previously added;
- c) Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20-23, 26, 30 and 34 are currently amended;
- d) Claims 2, 6, 10, 14 and 18 were previously amended;
- e) Claims 39-42 are newly added; and
- f) Claims 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 38 are withdrawn.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;
~~storing information about~~ identifying the candidate program in a ~~first~~ first part of a time-dependent buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;
 recording ~~program information~~ content associated with the selected candidate program, ~~to provide recorded program information~~; and
~~storing the recorded program information~~ identifying the recorded content in a second part of the time-dependent buffer arrangement, to provide recorded program

1 information, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program information
2 define program-related information;

3 wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent
4 buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, ~~from the first part to the second part~~
5 ~~of the time-dependent buffer arrangement~~ wherein an order of program-related
6 information in the time-dependent buffer arrangement defines a temporal order for
7 presenting programs corresponding to the program-related information to a viewer; and
8 presenting a stream of programs to the viewer based on the temporal order
9 identified by the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

10
11 2. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the
12 automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

13 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection
14 criteria to identify the candidate program.

15
16 3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:

17 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.

18
19 4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:

20 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded content ~~program~~
21 ~~information~~; and

22 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user
23 activities.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:
2 ~~recording~~ identifying a plurality of ~~the recorded program information content~~
3 corresponding to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer
4 arrangement to provide a corresponding plurality of recorded program information,
5 wherein the plurality of the recorded program information is in an initial time-ordered
6 sequence for viewing the recorded content; and
7 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the
8 recorded program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence for viewing
9 the recorded content within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

10
11 6. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial
12 time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a comparison of the recorded
13 program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection criteria.

14
15 7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial time-ordered
16 sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

17
18 8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
19 selectively ~~storing~~ identifying the recorded ~~program information~~ content within
20 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~in~~ with a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

21
22 9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-
23 executable instructions for performing steps comprising:
24 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;
25

1 ~~storing information about~~ identifying the candidate program in a first part of a
2 time-dependent buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;

3 recording ~~program information~~ content associated with the selected candidate
4 program, ~~to provide recorded program information; and~~

5 ~~storing the recorded program information~~ identifying the recorded content in a
6 second part of the time-dependent buffer arrangement to provide recorded program
7 information, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program information
8 define program-related information;

9 wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent
10 buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, ~~from the first part to the second part~~
11 ~~of the time-dependent buffer arrangement~~ wherein an order of program-related
12 information in the time-dependent buffer arrangement defines a temporal order for
13 presenting programs corresponding to the program-related information to a viewer; and
14 presenting a stream of programs to the viewer based on the temporal order.

15
16 10. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,
17 wherein the automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

18 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection
19 criteria to identify the candidate program.

20
21 11. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further
22 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

23 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.
24
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1 12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,
2 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

3 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded ~~program information~~
4 content; and

5 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user
6 activities.

7
8 13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,
9 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

10 ~~recording~~ identifying a plurality of the recorded ~~program information~~ content
11 corresponding to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer
12 arrangement to provide a corresponding plurality of recorded program information,
13 wherein the plurality of the recorded program information is in an initial time-ordered
14 sequence for viewing the recorded content; and

15 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the
16 recorded program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence for viewing
17 the recorded content within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

18
19 14. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13,
20 wherein the initial time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a
21 comparison of the recorded program information with at least a portion of the definable
22 user selection criteria.

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the
2 initial time-ordered sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

3
4 16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,
5 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

6 selectively ~~storing~~ identifying the recorded ~~program information~~ content within
7 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~in~~ with a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

8
9 17. (Currently Amended) An arrangement comprising:
10 an intelligent content agent configured to automatically select a candidate
11 program to record;

12 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the intelligent
13 content agent and configurable to:

14 ~~receive and store information about the~~ identify the candidate program in a
15 first part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism, to provide candidate
16 information, wherein the recording of the candidate program produces recorded
17 content; and

18 ~~receive and store program information associated with the selected~~
19 ~~candidate program~~ identify the recorded content in a second part of the time-
20 dependent buffer mechanism to provide recorded program information, wherein
21 the candidate information and the recorded program information define program-
22 related information,

23 wherein the arrangement is configured to advance the program-related
24 information through the time-dependent buffer in the manner of a shift register, ~~from the~~

1 ~~first part to the second part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism~~ wherein an order of
2 program-related information in the time-dependent buffer mechanism defines a temporal
3 order for presenting programs corresponding to the program-related information to a
4 viewer,

5 wherein the arrangement is configured to present a stream of programs to the
6 viewer based on the temporal order identified by the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

7
8 18. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the
9 intelligent content agent is further configured to scan an electronic program guide (EPG)
10 based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate program.

11
12 19. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the intelligent
13 content agent is further configured to maintain definable user selection criteria for each
14 one of a plurality of users.

15
16 20. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, further
17 comprising a bubbling agent operatively associated with the intelligent content agent and
18 the time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and configured to monitor user activities
19 associated with the recorded ~~program information~~ content, and modify the definable user
20 selection criteria based on the monitored user activities.

21
22 21. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the
23 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:
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1 ~~record~~ identify, in an initial time-ordered sequence for viewing the recorded
 2 content, a plurality of recorded ~~program information~~ content associated with a plurality of
 3 selected candidate programs to provide a corresponding plurality of recorded program
 4 information; and

5 respond to user input by selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence
 6 to produce a modified time-ordered sequence for viewing the recorded content.

7
 8 22. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the
 9 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

10 ~~record~~ identify, in an initial time-ordered sequence for viewing the recorded
 11 content, a plurality of recorded ~~program information~~ content associated with a plurality of
 12 selected candidate programs to provide a corresponding plurality of recorded program
 13 information; and

14 wherein, the intelligent content agent is further configured to automatically
 15 rearrange the initial time-ordered sequence based on a comparison of the recorded
 16 program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection criteria to
 17 produce a modified time-ordered sequence for viewing the recorded content.

18
 19 23. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, further
 20 comprising a permanent storage buffer mechanism operatively associated with the time-
 21 dependent content buffer mechanism, and wherein the ~~time-dependent content buffer~~
 22 ~~mechanism~~ arrangement is further configured to selectively ~~move~~ store the recorded
 23 content within the ~~time-dependent buffer mechanism to the~~ permanent storage buffer
 24 mechanism.

1
2 24. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the intelligent
3 content agent is further configured to examine closed caption data during recording of the
4 candidate program to determine if the candidate program significantly matches a specific
5 user criteria.

6
7 25. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the time-dependent
8 content buffer mechanism is further configured to automatically provide a selectively
9 arranged sequence of recorded candidate programs.

10
11 26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
12 playing the ~~candidate program~~ recorded content identified in the second part of
13 the time-dependent buffer arrangement, to provide previously played program
14 information; and

15 ~~storing~~ identifying the previously played program information in a third part of
16 the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

17
18 27. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the user activities
19 pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the time-
20 dependent buffer arrangement.

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22 28. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the modified
23 time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least
24 some recorded program information in front of other recorded program information.
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1
2 29. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

3 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic
4 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate
5 program;

6 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to
7 provide recorded program information; and

8 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,
9 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
10 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

11
12 30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,
13 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

14 playing the ~~candidate program~~ recorded content identified in the second part of
15 the time-dependent buffer arrangement, to provide previously played program
16 information; and

17 ~~storing the~~ identifying the previously played program information in a third part
18 of the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

19
20 31. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12, wherein
21 the user activities pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored
22 in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

1 32. (Previously Added) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13,
2 wherein the modified time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered
3 sequence by moving at least some recorded program information in front of other
4 recorded program information.

5
6 33. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
7 instructions for performing steps comprising:

8 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic
9 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate
10 program;

11 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to
12 provide recorded program information; and

13 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,
14 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
15 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

16
17 34. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the
18 arrangement is configured to play the ~~candidate program~~ recorded content identified in
19 the second part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism, to provide previously played
20 program information, and the time-dependent buffer mechanism is further configured to
21 ~~store~~ identify the previously played program information in a third part of the time-
22 dependent buffer mechanism.

1 35. (Withdrawn) The arrangement as recited in Claim 20, wherein the user
2 activities pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the
3 time-dependent buffer mechanism.

4
5 36. (Previously Added) The arrangement as recited Claim 21, wherein the
6 modified time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving
7 at least some recorded program information in front of other recorded program
8 information.

9
10 37. (Previously Added) The arrangement as recited Claim 22, wherein the
11 modified time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving
12 at least some recorded program information in front of other recorded program
13 information.

14
15 38. (Withdrawn) An arrangement comprising:
16 an agent configured to automatically select a candidate program to record by
17 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to
18 identify the candidate program; and

19 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the agent and
20 configurable to receive and store program information associated with the selected
21 candidate program, to provide recorded program information,

22 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
23 program information stored in the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

1 39. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the stream of recorded
2 content is a single stream.

3
4 40. (New) A method comprising:
5 identifying program information associated with plural programs in a time-
6 dependent buffer arrangement, wherein an order of the program information defines a
7 temporal order in which the programs are presented to a viewer;
8 presenting a stream of programs to the viewer in the order defined by the time-
9 dependent buffer arrangement by advancing the program information through the time-
10 dependent buffer in the manner of a shift register; and
11 identifying, using the time-dependent buffer arrangement, a status of the program
12 information with respect to whether the corresponding programs have been: (a) selected
13 but not yet recorded; (b) recorded but not yet viewed; and (c) viewed.

14
15 41. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions
16 for performing the method of claim 40.

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18 42. (New) An arrangement configured to perform the method of claim 40.
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